

Focus on 5th



News and Events in the 5th Grade
September 20, 2010
www.op97.org

Important Dates

Sept. 20	Picture Day
Sept. 24	Math MAP Testing
Oct. 11	No School
Oct. 18-22	Conferences

Dear Families,

Last week students took the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment in reading. This week our 5th graders will take the MAP test in math on Friday, Sept. 24th. MAP testing is replacing the PA Series from years past. The MAP assessment gives varied questions based on student responses. The results will allow us to measure individual student growth and target specific skills students are ready to enhance, develop or be introduced to. For further information on the MAP assessment, please look at the link located in the digital backpack under the District subheading (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>).

If you haven't done so already, please contact your child's homeroom teacher (preferably by e-mail) listing your **top 3 preferred times**. You can view the available conference times on the 5th Grade Wiki (www.holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com). We will make every effort to schedule your conference during one of your preferred times and then we will confirm your conference time with you. We would like to meet the parents or guardians of every 5th grade student. Please note there are 4 appointments available for each 30 minute time slot. This format allows you to spend 5-6 minutes with each of your child's four teachers. While conferences is a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact any of us any time throughout the year.

Reading Olympics will begin soon. For a list of the Reading Olympics books and schedule, please see the first 5th grade newsletter located on the 5th grade wiki. The first competition will be at Holmes School on November 22nd. Please have your student see Ms. Manuel if they are interested in forming a team.

SPECIALS

Music

For monthly updates on what your child is learning in music, feel free to check out Mrs. Karia's blog at <https://sites.google.com/a/op97.org/holmes-music/home>. You can also find it by going to the Holmes Staff page and clicking the link under her picture.

Spanish

Students have been reviewing classroom objects and commands. They had fun making and recording vocabulary presentations with Flip Cameras. We'll be starting with stories this week!

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack**
For School and District Forms
<http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>



Reading/Literature

Students took the MAP assessment on Friday and all gave their very best effort! This week's Open Court Story is The Abacus Contest. We will be focusing on metacognition and making text-to-text connections. In workshop, students will learn how to use GarageBand to record their reading and rate their fluency. Additionally, students will receive their first literature circle novel of the year. Students will have time to read these novels in class, but may have to bring it home to finish if they do not finish in class. Literature Circle discussions will be held every Friday in class.

Math

Graded Unit 1 tests were returned to students today. Please review the test with your child and if a signature has been requested, please sign and return the test. This week we continue to work on addition and subtraction of multi-digit whole numbers and decimals. If you need additional explanation of the Everyday Math algorithms, please visit the 5th grade math wiki. Because we will be MAP testing on Friday, we will not have our usual Friday quiz this week.

If your child has Mrs. Circo for math, please visit the wiki for further information.

<http://op97holmesgtd.wikispaces.com/SixthGradeMath>

Science

Last week the students worked in groups to research different scientists and how they have impacted the world we live in today. This week the students will be sharing what they have discovered with the rest of their classmates. We will also be moving along in our Pollution unit as we discuss air pollution.

Social Studies

We ended last week with a discussion of how the beringia connected Asia and North America during the Ice Age. We are now learning about the various tribes of North America and how their natural resources affected their lives. By the end of the week, groups will begin research on a specific tribe in order to create a room display.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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